

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

A Service of the Word and Holy Communion



## *Thief in the Night*

by James B. Janknegt, US, Contemporary

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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
A Service of the Word and Holy Communion

*“Be dressed, ready for service and keep your lamp burning and be like those waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast”—Luke 12:35-36*

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*please stand as you are able*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – *Betty Funk*

#### Call to Worship:

One: Creator resides in the midst of creation...calling us to this community.

**Many: Our world waits for the Holy One, our help and shield.**

One: God our Righteousness gazes upon the beloved with delight and concern.

**Many: Our bodies wait for the Holy One, our help and shield.**

One: The Spirit of the Living God greets us with fresh winds and new mercies.

**Many: Our souls wait for the Holy One, our help and shield.**

#### \*GATHERING PRAYER

Abundant God, we wait for you with longing,  
hope, and anticipation.  
May your kin-dom be realized in this community.  
May your people be your ambassadors.  
May your love be our propeller in the world  
and our beacon to direct us home.  
Fill us with the bread of life and nourish our spirits  
to be your good news in the world.  
Amen.

**\*HYMN - NCH 1 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

Author: Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.

Source: John Roberts' , 1839, adapt from a Welsh ballad

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**1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.**

**2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**3 Your life is life-giving - to both great and small;  
in all life you're living, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,  
then wither and perish - but naught dims your powers.**

**4 So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render and your angels do:  
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.**

**A READING OF THE WORD**

*In the Hebrew Scripture reading from Genesis 15, Abram is worried that he has no heir, and that a servant born in his house will inherit. However, God speaks assurance to Abram, that just as numerous as the stars are, so shall his descendants be. Abram believed what God said, and so God trusted in Abram's faithfulness.*

**FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6**

**15** 1 After these events, the word of YHWH came to Abram in a vision:

"Fear not, Abram!  
I am your shield;  
I will make your reward very great."

2 Abram said, "But my Sovereign, My God, what good are these blessings to me, so long as Sarai and I will die in disgrace? My only heir is a foreigner who lives in my household, Eliezer of Damascus. 3 Since you have given me no offspring," Abram continued, "an attendant in my house will

be my heir.”

4 Then the word of YHWH came to Abram and said, “This person will not be your heir. Your heir will be of your own flesh and blood.” 5 Then God took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can! As many as that, you will have for descendants.” 6 Abram believed YHWH, and God accounted it to Abram as righteousness.

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS: 33:12-22 (Responsively)**

*This is a song of praise, praising the people who have made YHWH their God, and whom God has chosen to be God’s people. God watches over all peoples and all nations. Leaders and warriors are not saved by their own strength and might, but by God. Faithful ones wait for God and put their trust in the One who is their defender. The psalmist concludes with a petition for God to bless the faithful ones who wait for God.*

**33** 12 Happy is the nation whose God is YHWH!

Happy the people you choose as your own inheritance!

**13 From the heavens you look forth, God, and see all of humankind.**

14 From your dwelling place you watch over all the peoples of the earth.

**15 You shape the hearts of them all and consider all their deeds.**

16 A ruler isn’t saved by the size of an army; a warrior doesn’t escape because of strength.

**17 Trust in the horse for your deliverance and you’ll be disappointed— despite its might, it cannot save.**

18 God’s eyes look on those who stand in reverence,

on those who hope in God’s love

**19 to rescue them from death, or to keep them alive during famine.**

20 And so we wait for God, our help and our shield.

**21 For in you our hearts find joy; we trust in your holy Name.**

**22 May your love be upon us, God, as we place all our hope in you.**

## **SECOND READING- Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

*The Epistle/Christian Letter turns to a four-part series in the book of Hebrews, beginning with these verses in chapter 11. This section speaks of faith as “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Our ancestors in the faith are ones to look to as an example, for they did not see the fullness of what was to come. Specifically, Abraham and Sarah were promised a new home, a new land. They were also promised that their descendants would be as numerous as the stars, and yet, they waited until their old age and had only one child. But from one person—and one might be as good as dead, for all their hopes of the future were literally in one fragile human being—God fulfilled the promise. They spoke of themselves as strangers in a strange land, and while on earth they hoped for a new home. God has shown that the true home is still to come, a home with God, a heavenly city prepared for them.*

**11** 1 Faith is the reality that is hoped for; Faith is the proof of all that is unseen. 2 Because of faith, our ancestors were approved by God.

3 By faith, we understand that the world was created by the word from God, and that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

8 By faith, Sarah and Abraham obeyed when they were called, and went off to the place they were to receive as a heritage, they went forth, moreover, not knowing where they were going.

9 By faith, Sarah and Abraham lived in the promised land as resident aliens, dwelling in tents with their children and grandchildren, who were heirs of the same promise—10 for they were looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God. 11 By faith, Sarah received the ability to conceive, even though she was past childbearing age, for she thought that the One who had made the promise was worthy of trust. 12 As a result of this faith, there came forth from one woman and one man, themselves as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the sky and the sands of the seashore.

13 All of them died in faith. They didn’t obtain what had been promised but saw and welcomed it from afar. By acknowledging themselves to the strangers and exiles on the earth 14 they showed that they were looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country from which they had come they’d have been able to return to it. 16 But they were searching for a better country, a heavenly one. So God isn’t ashamed of them, or ashamed to be called their God. That’s why God has prepared a city for them.

## **GOSPEL READING – Luke 12:32-40**

*This text contains part of Jesus’ discourse on preparing for Christ’s return to our world and our lives in a new way, living as if Christ may come again at any moment. That preparation begins by living into God’s reign in the here and now. Jesus called upon the disciples to not be swayed by treasure on earth but to share what they have with those in need and to turn to treasure in heaven. Jesus uses the metaphor of a wedding banquet and servants ready to serve the groom when he returns. In this metaphor, the groom will in turn serve the servants at the table, and the groom is grateful when the servants are ready, no matter what time he returns. Then Jesus switches metaphors to a homeowner and a thief, and describes himself like a thief in the night, coming at an unexpected time, for Christ shall come at an unexpected time in an unexpected way.*

**12** 32 “Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Abba God to give you the kin-dom.

33 “Sell what you own and give the money to poorer people. Make purses for yourselves that don’t wear out—treasures that won’t fail you, in heaven that thieves can’t steal and moths can’t destroy. 34 For wherever your treasure is, that’s where your heart will be.

35 “Be dressed and ready, and keep your lamps lit. 36 Be like the household staff awaiting the owner’s return from a wedding, so that when the owner arrives and knocks, you’ll open the door without delay. 37 It will go well with those staff members whom the owner finds wide awake upon returning. I tell you the absolute truth, the owner will put on an apron, seat them at table and proceed to wait on them. 38 Should the owner happen to come at midnight, or before sunrise, and find them prepared, it will go well with them.

39 “Understand this: no homeowner who knew when a thief was coming would have let the thief break in! 40 So be on guard—the Promised One will come when least expected.”

**CHORAL RESPONSE – He is Lord**

**Choir: Keith Konet and Bob Bucklew**  
*Accompanist: Betty Funk*

**REFLECTION – Fear Not! - The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

**WE RESPOND**

**\*PRAYER OF RESPONSE**

**Gracious God, you have created a world  
of abundance and flourishing.  
Every resource, every gift, every product  
originates from the generosity of  
your creation and the creativity you have  
bestowed upon us. Forgive us for misuse  
and overuse of your gifts. Reveal our miserly  
attitudes toward the plentiful trove of resources  
you have entrusted to our care.  
Sow generosity in us, reveal abundance to us,  
and enable flourishing through us.  
Amen.**

**\*HYMN - NCH 423 Great Is Your Faithfulness**

**Great Is Your Faithfulness**  
Author: Thomas O. Chisholm 1923; alt.  
Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain  
Composer: William M. Runyon, 1923  
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**1 Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,  
with you no shadow of turning we see.  
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;  
all of your goodness forever will be.**

**Refrain:**

**Great is your faithfulness!  
Great is your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has provided,  
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,  
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. [Refrain]**

#### **INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Luke 12:34 informs us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Let our hearts direct the use of our resources, our time, and our talents. May our generosity meet God's abundance in attending to the needs and hopes of our community.

#### **THE OFFERTORY – *Betty Funk***

##### **\*PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

##### **\*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS**

**Generous One, receive the gifts we bring  
as we return a portion of your  
treasure to the use of your kingdom.  
May your will be manifested, and your creation  
restored through sharing these offerings.  
Amen.**

## **\*CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

We are blessed when we trust in God, but too often we offer our loyalty to idols. We are blessed when we see each other as family, but we prefer to see them as strangers, even enemies. So, let us come with our prayers to the One who loves without reservation and offers compassion without conditions. Join me as we pray, saying,

## **\*PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**We must admit, Loving God, that if faith is a trust which cannot be confirmed, it is easier not to trust. Of if faith is the gut feeling that hope is just around the corner, we prefer to keep our eyes closed. And surely, if faith is to be lived out in difficult moments, we often leave it behind at home.**

**Call us into your backyard, God of wonder, to point up to the stars and remind us that we cannot begin to imagine, or count, how many times you will forgive us. Give us the trust to have faith in you, the faith to hope in you, and the assurance you will surround us with the grace, hope, and wonder shared with us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

- *Silent Prayer*

## **\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Like our grandparents in the faith, we can dare to trust in the promises of God, even without any actual proof staring us in the face. This is the good news of God's love.

**Many: We will trust in those things that last, in the grace, which counts, in the mercy no one can take away from us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

## **CHORAL HYMN – My Jesus, I Love Thee**

*Choir: Bob Bucklew and Keith Konet*

*Accompanist: Betty Funk*

## **COMMUNION LITURGY**

### **A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(We pause to invite those at home who have not already prepared elements to do so.  
Even an English muffin can become a sacrament, even a cup of water or tea  
can become a remembrance of God's redeeming love)*

## **INVITATION**

Friends, this isn't Zion Chapel's table. It's not the United Church of Christ's table. But it's Christ's table. And because it's Christ's table, all of us are welcome here. At this table, you don't have to worship a certain way, look a certain way, or love a certain way. You don't have to believe what

I believe, or what, the person sitting next to you believes. You just have to come, exactly as you are, seeking the one who is seeking you. So come, all of you, not because you must, but because you may, and here find healing and wholeness for your journey.

### **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

One: May the God of faith be with you!

**Many: May God be with you as well!**

One: Let us open our hearts in trust.

**Many: God fills them with grace in every moment.**

One: Join together in praise and thanksgiving.

**Many: We lift our voices in glad adoration to our God.**

*(Allow silence to speak for a few moments.)*

One:

When there was only the emptiness  
of chaos, God of our hearts,  
you dared to imagine that from  
things unseen might come wonders  
to behold:

stars too many to count in the night,  
flowers varied in colors and shapes,  
creatures that roamed, flew, swam.

You spoke the Word which brought  
all this into being for those who are  
created in your image of hope and love,  
but we chose to trust temptation's lies  
and to hope in the emptiness of death.

In dreams, with words, with love,  
women and men continued to call us  
back to you, who would fill us with grace,  
but we always turned away, trusting  
power, hate, fear, injustice instead.

Then, you chose to become one of us,  
so we might see hope walking among us,  
so we might taste grace in fish and bread,  
so we might know love that never ends.

With those who have faith which astounds us,  
with those who long to see your beloved Community,  
we join our voices in praise and wonder:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, God who watches over us.  
All creation trusts in your grace and hope.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to serve us.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: By grace, we come to this Table.

By hope, we tell the story of Jesus.

By faith, we share the mystery of salvation:

**Many: Jesus died, to bring light into death's gloom.  
Jesus was raised, to bring life to all God's people.  
Jesus will come, so all are welcomed by God.**

**\*TABLE PRAYER**

**Now you come, Holy God,  
pouring out your Spirit  
on the gifts of the bread and cup  
and on your people gathered here.  
May the bread which is broken  
give us the strength to go and  
choose love, not hate;  
to share hope, not fear;  
to gather people together, not divide them.  
May the cup of grace  
nourish us to be the ones  
who offer compassion without conditions,  
who offer justice and grace to all,  
who will love without reservation.**

**And when all time has come to an end,  
we will sit at the table in your backyard,  
feasting with our sisters and brothers  
under the stars we never stopped counting,  
rejoicing with them in your grace,  
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER – using “debts” and “debtors”**

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### **BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE**

Leader: Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said:  
"This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat."

And pouring the wine:  
"This is my blood, spilled out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

#### **CALL TO THE FEAST**

Leader: This is the feast prepared for you.  
Come and share for all is ready.

#### **\*SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

Leader: Let us in our places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.  
**Unison: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

Leader: Let us in our places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.  
**Unison: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.**

#### **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Thank you, Divine Spirit,  
for this meal of remembrance,  
and for coming to us as we have shared it.  
May the love we find at this table  
be reflected in our lives;  
May the power we receive at this table  
make us peacemakers and healers;  
And may the Spirit who fills us again at this table  
lead us to be those who proclaim God's Reign  
in the words we speak  
and in the things we do. Amen.**

## GOING FORTH

### \*PARTING HYMN - NCH 377 - Forward Through the Ages

#### Forward Through the Ages

Author: Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; alt.

Tune: ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D. with refrain

Composer: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871

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**1 Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
move the faithful spirits at the call divine;  
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,  
manifold the service, one the sure reward.**

#### Refrain:

**Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.**

**2 Wide grows God's dominion,  
reign of love and peace;  
for it we must labor, till all strivings cease.  
Prophets have proclaimed it, teachers testified,  
poets sung its glory, martyrs for it die. [Refrain]**

**3 Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;  
in each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.  
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,  
move we on together to the shining goal. [Refrain]**

### COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

One: As God's people, let us be ready:

**Many: to bring light into the shadows,  
to confront the bullies around us.**

One: As followers of Jesus, let us be ready:

**Many: to invite strangers into our hearts,  
to set the table for everyone.**

One: As those gifted by the Spirit, let us be ready:

**Many: to choose love, not hate;  
to feed those who wander  
through deserts of both food and fear.  
Amen.**

### POSTLUDE – Betty Funk

\* \* \* \* \*

## Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *alternate texts Liturgy w/communion for August 7, 2022 (Pentecost 9/Trinity 8/Proper 14 Ordinary 19 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 1, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (2) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, the Blessing of the Gifts, and Prayer of Response are adapted from. *Treasures in Heaven: Service prayers for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by Rev Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Copyright 2022 Faith INFO Ministry Team, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Call to Reconciliation, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Grace are adapted from *Alternate texts liturgy w/communion for August 7, 2022 (Pentecost 9/Trinity 8/Proper 14/Ordinary 19 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 1, 2022, on his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) The Invitation for Communion is adapted from *Easter Communion: Words of Resurrection*, by the Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen, 2016, posted on Worship Well, a ministry of the Vermont Conference United Church of Christ. <https://worshipwell.church/2016/03/23/easter-communion-words-of-resurrection/>.
- (5) Portions of the Communion Liturgy – Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Table Prayer - are adapted from *Alternate texts liturgy w/communion for August 7, 2022 (Pentecost 9/Trinity 8/Proper 14/Ordinary 19 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 1, 2022 on his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (6) Portions of the Communion Liturgy - Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine and Call to the Feast - are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for December 5, 2021 (Advent 2 - C)*, written by The Rev. Thom Shuman, and posted December 1, 2021 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (7) A portion of the Communion Liturgy - the Sharing of the Elements - is adapted from *Online Communion for Palm Sunday*, written by The Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi. ©2020 Maren Tirabassi, all publishing rights reserved. Permission for congregations to use in worship or educational settings, including streaming
- (8) The Prayer of Thanksgiving following Communion is adapted from *Prayers After Receiving in A Communion Liturgy for Pentecost Sunday*, written by John van de Laar © Sacredise Publishing (Sacredise.com). Posted on the website, *ProgressiveChristianity.org*. <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/a-communion-liturgy-for-pentecost-sunday/>
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Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### Season after Pentecost - Ordinary Time

The longest season of the liturgical calendar is filled with Sundays called "Ordinary Time." **The season - called the Season after Pentecost or Ordinary Time - began with Trinity Sunday and ends with Reign of Christ Sunday (the Sunday before the start of Advent).** If you're like me, you might hear "ordinary time" as "boring time." But that's not the case! The word "ordinary" most likely means "numbered" here (think ordinal numbers), because the Sundays of Ordinary Time are numbered. **In this season we move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world to focusing toward the impact of being in Christ in the world. A life in the unity of the Trinity is one of being shaped and sent daily in the image and in the purpose of Holy Love.** The liturgical color for this season is green. During the Season after Pentecost, we focus on the life of the Church as it grows in the midst of the world.

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*

### Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.

- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- The families of Ruth Whitfield, 86; Roberta Drury, 32; Aaron Salter, 55; Heyward Patterson, 67; Pearl Young, 77; Geraldine Talley, 62; Celestine Chaney, 65; Katherine Massey, 72; Margus Morrison, 52; and Andre Mackneil, 53 killed last week in a racist-inspired mass shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York.
- The family and friends of John Cheng, 52, killed in a mass shooting at a church reception in Laguna Woods, California on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The families and friends of the 19 children (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders) and two teachers murdered in the massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas: Alexandria Aniyah Rubio, 10; Alithia Ramirez, 10; Amerie Jo Garza, 10; Annabell Guadalupe Rodriguez, 10; Eliahana Cruz Torres, 10; Eliana "Ellie" Garcia, 9; Eva Mireles, 44 (fourth grade teacher); Irma Garcia (fourth grade teacher); Jackie Cazares, 10; Jailah Nicole Silguero, 10; Jayce Luevanos, 10; Jose Flores, 10; Layla Salazar, 10; Makenna Lee Elrod, 10; Maite Rodriguez; Miranda Mathis, 11; Nevaeh Bravo; Rojelio Torres, 10; Tess Marie Mata; Uziyah Garcia, 10; and Xavier Lopez, 10.
- The families and friends of the those killed in the mass shooting at a medical center in Tulsa, Oklahoma on June 1<sup>st</sup>: two doctors, Preston Phillips, 59 and Stephanie Husen, 48; a receptionist, Amanda Glenn, 40; and a visitor/patient, William Love, 73.
- The families and friends of those killed in the shootings at a potluck dinner on June 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama: 84-year-old Walter Rainey, 75-year-old Sarah Yeager and 84-year-old Jane Pounds.
- The family and friends of those killed at the mass shooting at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Highland Park, Illinois: Irina and Kevin McCarthy; Eduardo Uvaldo, 69; Katherine Goldstein, 64; Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza, 78; Jacquelyn Sundheim, 63; and Stephen Straus, 88.
- **May God be revealed in their stories and the tears of all who mourn. May their memory be a blessing and their life in God's good care last forever.**
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Tonga affected by the eruption of an undersea volcano and tsunami flooding.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 396 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.

- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara, and Michael Reed.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet
  - Marcia Leslie (*neighbor and friend – health concerns*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (*fell at home and injured her knee and leg, presently at O'Neill Healthcare, Room 103, 7250 Old Oak Blvd., Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130 – 440.863.5624*)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter
  - Patricia Matheny (prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray)
  - Lee Matsos and family
  - Barbara Rossington (*move to a new senior housing community*)
  - Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
  - The family of Michael O'Brien particularly his wife, Debbie Webb (*following Michael's death last Fall. Our love and sympathy to Debbie and Michael's family*).
  - Beverly Wurm (*recuperating*)

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA  
c/o Heartland Conference UCC  
P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time.**

### **ZION'S NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, BEVERLY WURM**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are:

Monday – 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 11am – 4pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

**Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).**